

# IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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Number 2

## IOWA'S "SNOWBOUND" TROUT

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### URGE STOP OF INSECTICIDE USE

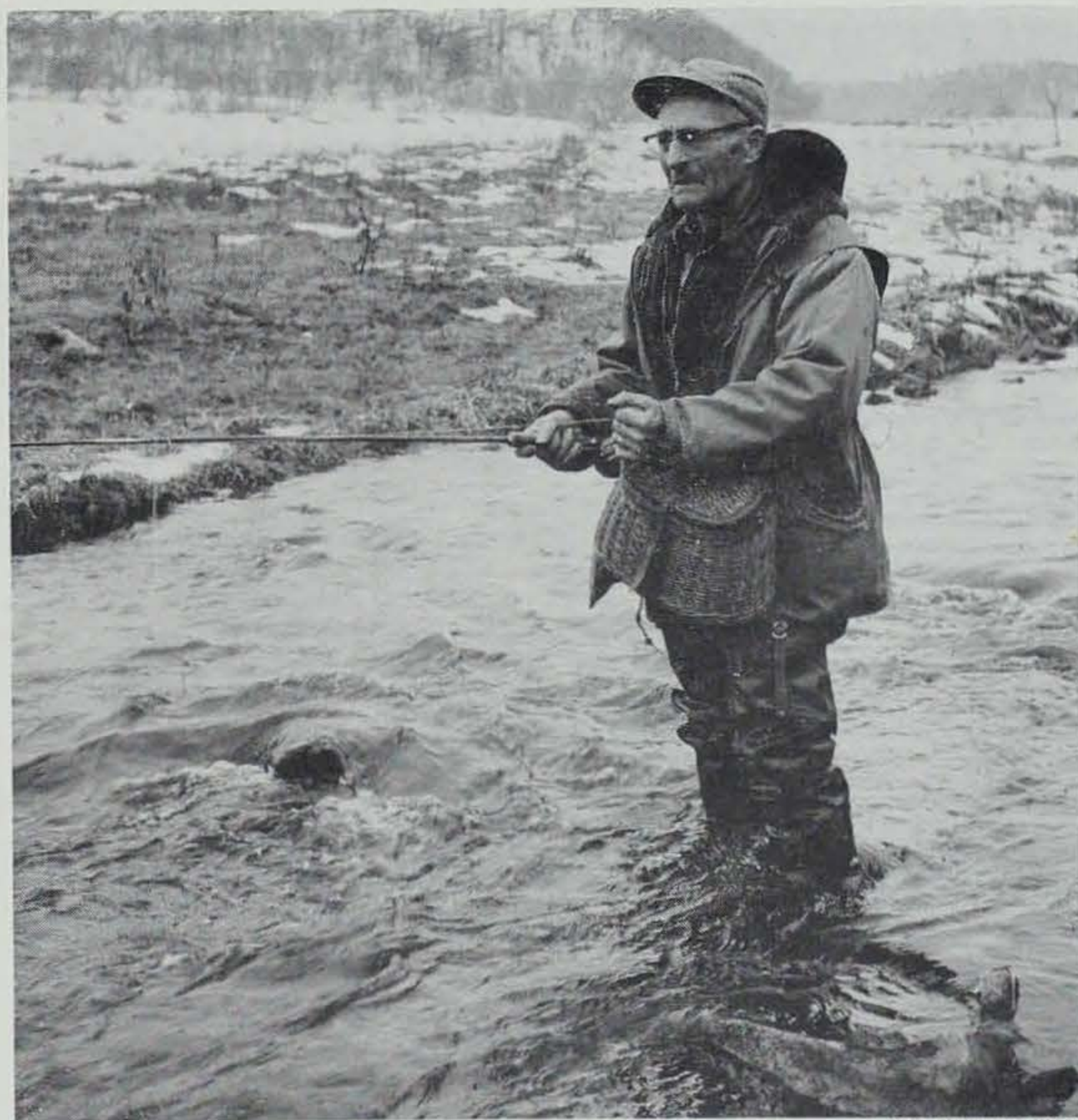
The National Audubon Society has urgently recommended that the Department of Agriculture stop all insect control programs in which highly toxic chemicals are broadcast unless incontrovertible evidence becomes available that no serious damage to human and wildlife resources will result.

The society specifically requested the Secretary of Agriculture to stop the proposed control program for the imported fire ant on some 20 million acres in nine southern states. The program is already under way.

At the same time, the society warned the general public that all use of highly toxic modern insecticides, fungicides and so-called pesticides by governmental agencies, farmers, and other land owners, including gardeners, carries with it a much higher potential of harm to human beings and wildlife than is generally recognized.

"Insecticide hazards may well rank in seriousness of adverse effects with the dangers of radioactive fallout," said Mr. John H. Baker, president of the society. The use of toxic chemicals for the purpose of protecting agricultural and forest crops has now skyrocketed to the point where cumulative

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Alvin Wilde of Lansing is one of the fraternity of Iowa trout anglers who love the sport whatever the season. In northeast Iowa streams, numbed fingers and frozen rod guides are sometimes rewarded by "lunker" fish and fast action.

### Hunter Success At Brown's Slough, Colyn Area

A final tabulation of hunter success data, gathered during the State Conservation Commission's controlled duck hunting experiment conducted on the Colyn and Browns slough areas last fall, has been made, with the following as perhaps the most significant observations for Iowa duck hunters:

... The number of occupied blinds had very little effect on hunting success at Browns Slough, the controlled shooting area, while there was a direct relationship between hunting pressure and hunting success on the Colyn Area.

... Hunters at Browns Slough averaged .94 birds per hunter day and 4.9 hunter hours were required per bird. On the Colyn Area, hunters averaged .64 birds

per hunter day and spent 6.4 hunter hours per bird.

... 613 hunters at Browns Slough bagged 575 birds while 740 hunters on the Colyn Area took 473 birds.

... Crippling loss was low on both areas with a 10 per cent loss at Browns Slough and 5.8 per cent loss at Colyn. The greater crippling loss at Browns Slough is probably attributed to the fact that the vegetation was much denser on this area.

... Of the 613 hunters using the controlled area, all but five indicated they liked controlled hunting.

The above observations are gleaned from a "Summary of Waterfowl Season 1957 and Controlled

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Keith C. Sutherland  
Editor

When many anglers think of winter fishing, they revel in the thought of a sharp spud with which to fashion a hole through thick lake ice, a darkened fish shack, and the thrill of watching a slashing walleye rising to grasp a "jigging" lure or wriggling minnow.

For many others, the picture image they might recall would be one of big rivers—the Mississippi and the Missouri. A number of others might conjure up a mental image of plump panfish from a southern Iowa reservoir or farm pond.

For still another group, the mind would reflect a different setting still. It would grasp and hold the beauty of northeast Iowa's snow-blanketed hillsides; of high, capped bluffs with outcroppings of limestone that stand like cloaked sentinels above ribbons of cold, clear streams. This is the home of the gaudy brookie; of the flashy, crimson-sided rainbow, and the powerful, deep-fighting German brown! This is Iowa's trout country!

It is country at a time of year when hills, valleys and forests are mantled in frothy, Christmas card repose—a sight to capture the heart of any who have it in their being to wax aesthetic about anything.

For the winter trout angler, the scene has all this and perhaps a bit more. He, after all, is a member of a hardy group who claim trout fishing as a sport to be enjoyed in cold as well as warm weather. Sure there may be a difference in personal comfort between summer and winter months, but those who like their fishing consider this a secondary matter.

Make no mistake about it, winter trout fishing is cold business! It demands a great deal of movement in the open, without protection of shelter and without the warming luxury of a shack stove to help chilled feet, to toast numbed fingers, or warm the end one sits on.

One might then put forth the

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**SHERMAN HEADS PUBLIC RELATIONS**

James R. Sherman, official photographer for the Iowa Conservation Commission for the past 12 years, has been appointed to the position of Superintendent of Public Relations.

Sherman's appointment was effective January 6. He succeeds Wayne Sanders, who resigned in October to accept a position with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



George Tovey Photo.

**JAMES R. SHERMAN**

During his service as Commission photographer, Sherman's work has consisted of both still and movie photography. He also has served as director of the television series "Outdoor Talk" and "Outdoor Shop Talk."

Before he started work for the Commission, Sherman attended the State University of Iowa and served on the photographic staffs of the *Des Moines Register* and *Tribune* and *Iowa City Press-Citizen*.

Surveys reveal that more than half the angling in Iowa is done along our 15,000 miles of streams.

**Drop Charges Against Daubendiek****Court Rules Trespassing Does Not Apply To Conservation Officers**

Charges of illegal trespassing and assault and battery were dropped January 6 in a Decorah justice of the peace court against Robert Daubendiek, Conservation Officer for Winneshiek and Howard Counties. The dismissal followed filing of formal allegations by John Carolan who farms near Decorah that Daubendiek had trespassed on his land and had assaulted his son, John Carolan, Jr., 15, during the Iowa deer season December 7.

Winneshiek County Attorney Isadore Meyer, in recommending dismissal of the case, cited the following before Justice of the Peace W. Clifford Schrubbe:

..... That Robert Daubendiek is a Conservation Officer employed by the State of Iowa, and under section 107.15 of the 1954 Code of Iowa has the power of and are deemed peace officers within the scope of the duties imposed on them.

..... That there is no crime of trespass in this case in Iowa, either under the Code of Iowa or the common law.

..... That there is no such crime as charged in this Preliminary Information in Iowa.

..... That if you (the justice court) were to make a finding of guilty in this case, the District Court on appeal would have to set it aside on the grounds that there is no such crime as trespass with reference to a conservation officer under our laws in Iowa.

..... That a Preliminary Information was filed without my (Meyer's) knowledge or consent.

..... Since this Preliminary Information was filed without the knowledge or consent of the county attorney of Winneshiek County, Iowa, it should be dismissed at the prosecuting witness' cost and judgment should be entered against the said John Carolan for the court costs accrued in the case.

Prior to the deer season, the Decorah newspapers had carried a large display advertisement stating that certain farmland would be closed to entry by any person "for the purpose of hunting or enforcing conservation laws."

Carolan was one of about 40 persons listing their names at the bottom of the advertisement.

On December 7, the Conservation Commission airplane detected a deer hunter without a red back tag identifying him as such. Conservation Officer Daubendiek was directed to the scene to apprehend the violator. After ignoring repeated instructions from the plane to stop, the hunter ran from the scene and was later apprehended by Daubendiek on the Carolan farm. It was at the farm that the hunter was identified as Carolan's son, John, Jr.

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK IS SET**

National Wildlife Week will be observed across the nation March 16-22. Theme of the 1958 observance is "Protect Our Public Lands!"

The 1958 observance marks the 20th anniversary of National Wildlife Week. First proclaimed by President Roosevelt in 1938, the week has been sponsored annually since by the National Wildlife Federation and the state groups that belong to the Federation. Purpose of the week is to focus public attention on the importance of our natural resources and on the broad and pressing problems of conservation.

The National Wildlife Federation is an association of state federations or leagues and their affiliated local conservation clubs. The total membership exceeds two million persons. It is not a government agency, but is a citizen's organization, and has been respon-

sible for informed public opinion leading to much important legislation and to many action programs in the conservation field. It is financed by civic-minded persons throughout the nation who every year send in small contributions in exchange for Wildlife Conservation Stamps.

**'COONS**

Contrary to popular belief, 'coons in the wild do not wash all of their food.

**WHOOPIING CRANES**

The whooping crane stands about five feet high.

The goldeneye is commonly known as a "whistler" because of the loud, high-pitched whir of its wings, which produce a curiously resonant effect when a flock is on the move.

**DEATH CLAIMS FLORENCE CLARK**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following tribute to the late Miss Florence Clark was written by Mrs. Addison Parker of Des Moines, a member of the Iowa Conservation Commission from 1937-1949. Miss Clark died at a Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, hospital on December 8.

**FLORENCE CLARK 1874-1957**

In the recent death of Miss Florence Clark, conservation in Iowa has lost a devoted friend. As a newspaper correspondent in McGregor from the early days of the Wild Life School, which she served as secretary, she gave strong support to all sound conservation measures. Over thirty years ago when the Northeast Iowa National Park Association gave up its effort to secure a National Park on the Mississippi bluffs near McGregor, and the National Park Service indicated that a National Monument might be substituted to preserve and make accessible some of the most important Indian Mound groups in North America, Miss Clark became a staunch and tireless supporter of the Monument.

Through her news and feature writings and pictures in daily newspapers and magazines and her intimate knowledge of people and places in Little Switzerland, she popularized northeast Iowa and its great scenic beauty. Countless communities around the state awaited her annual announcement that once again the roadways, cliffs, forests, and river banks were aglow with autumn color. The crowds who visit this area each year in ever-increasing numbers give mute tribute to Miss Clark's devoted loyalty to her community and to the state.

**HANDY MATCH BOX**

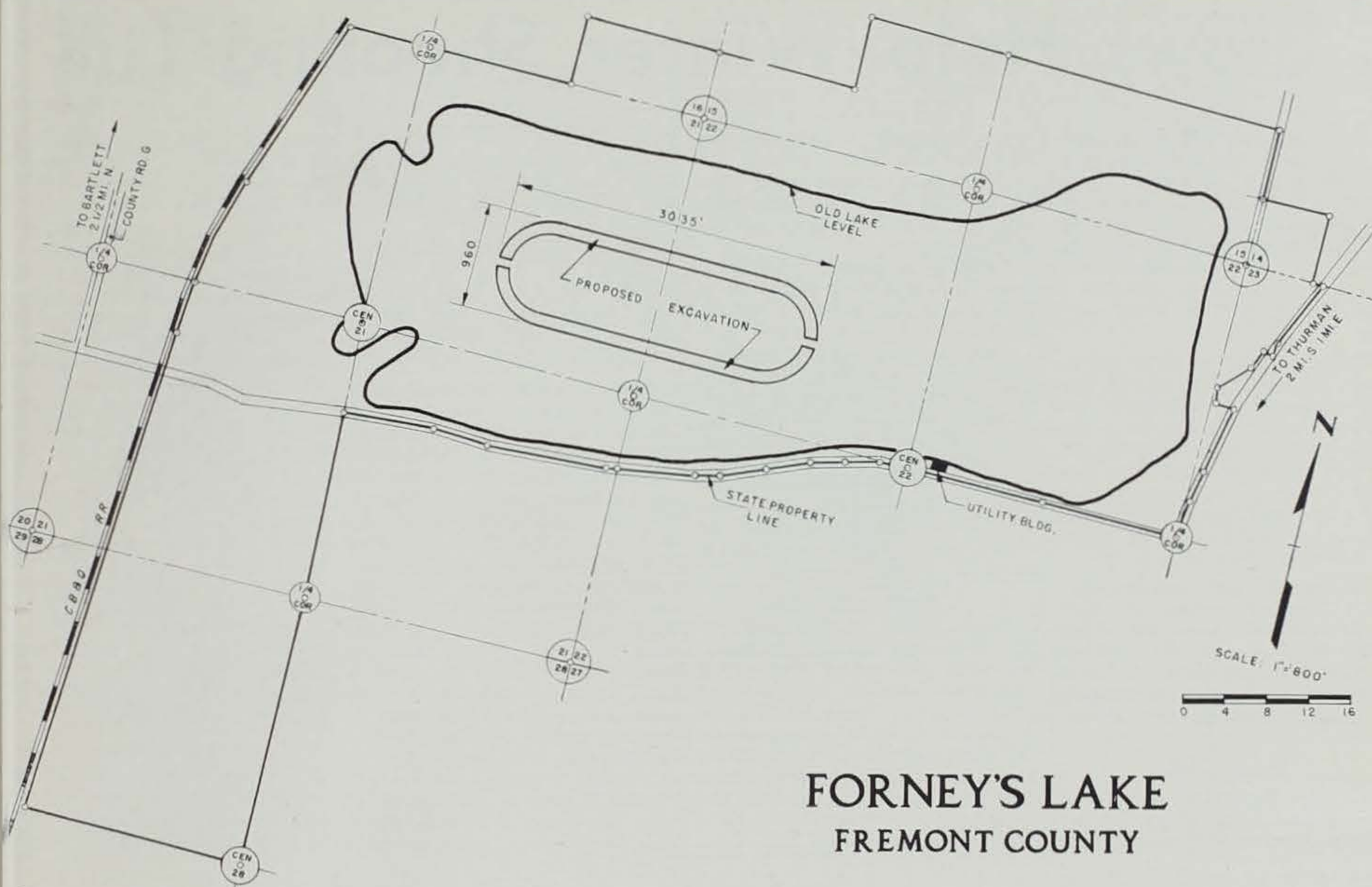
An empty 12-gauge shotgun shell slipped over an empty 16-gauge shell makes an excellent waterproof match box. Stick one in your hunting coat, one in your tackle box and one in your car. Dry matches are real handy when you need them!

There are 1,057 square miles in the Upper Iowa drainage basin.

Though color is often used in identifying fish, it's not always a good criterion since it varies widely in different parts of the country or even within the same lakes or streams.

The Mississippi is one of the greatest rivers in the world. The drainage of this river and its tributaries embraces one-third of the land surface of the United States. It is more than 4,000 miles long from the headwaters of its Missouri River tributary to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico.





## FORNEY'S LAKE FREMONT COUNTY

This drawing shows the work now underway at Forney's Lake in Fremont County. The project includes construction of a long oval ditch to attract Canada geese. Crops within the oval and around its boundaries will be managed specifically for Canada geese.

# NEW LIFE FOR FORNEY'S LAKE

An official go-ahead was given at the January meeting of the Iowa Conservation Commission to engineering and game management plans aimed at bringing water back into Forney's Lake and to establish a waterfowl refuge and hunting on the area.

Forney's Lake is located two miles north of Thurman in Fremont County.

As a result of Commission action, the Shenandoah contracting firm of Sterling McLaren began work February 3 on the excavation of a long, oval-shaped ditch near the center of the now dry lake bed. The ditch will not be a continuous wall of open water, but will be dug at each end to form two separate and distinct sides. (See drawing above).

Each of sides will be 3,250 feet long. The ditch will be 120 feet wide from outside to inside water areas, and have a maximum depth of five feet. The two sides will surround about 15 acres of water.

Commission engineers have estimated that a total of 113,600 cubic yards of earth will be excavated in the construction of the water areas. Soil from the excavation

will be spread and a three-foot dike will be installed to hold earth back and to keep it from sliding to the ditch. A plug will be placed in the west end of the ditch for access. Work on the oval is expected to be completed in 60 days.

Ground water will be utilized as the water source when the ditch is completed. Commission engineers estimate the static water table is only about 16 inches below ground level.

A basic plan calling for management of Forney's Lake as a waterfowl refuge and hunting area has already been adopted by the Commission's Fish and Game Division. More specifically, the area will be managed as a Canada goose refuge since this species requires little water to satisfy them.

The management plan also includes seeding of the area in the center around the water areas to such crops as wheat, rye and alfalfa for the specific purpose of attracting waterfowl. Bob Barratt, Unit Game Manager, estimates there will be 135 acres of grassland put to seed. In addition, it is planned to seed a 100-yard strip around the boundary of the state-owned area with row crops

that could be rotated. A portion of state-owned crops in this outside strip will be left standing for waterfowl food. It is planned that this strip will be used as a public shooting area. Future plans may also include crop plantings of a kind and variety that will attract and provide additional upland game hunting on the area, Barratt said.

Records in the long history of Forney's Lake (it was traded for a team and wagon in 1850) have chronicled periods of hardship and struggle. Conservation Commission records show the lake was dry during the years 1907-08, 1920-21, and again in the mid-thirties. The State Conservation Commission acquired most of its 1,069 acres in 1942-43, and it was after these years that the lake was dealt perhaps its severest blows. The Missouri River flood of 1952 left the lake bed badly silt-filled. On the heels of this adversity came stabilization of the Missouri River and the diversion of the lake's watershed (Waubonsie Creek) into the Missouri. The result of the combined setbacks was the loss of all water in 1953 and it has been dry since.

But Forney's Lake has had its moments of glory, too! In past years it has held as much as 400 acres of water and has been recognized as one of the finest waterfowl areas in the Midwest.

Prior to 1953, persons from all over the U. S. visited the area each spring to see the concentration of wild geese in the area. Cars displaying plates from every Iowa county and many states moved for hours on end and at bumper-to-bumper regularity to observe the spring concentration. National newsreel cameras cranked out the film story of the concentration and national magazines staffed the spectacle. Some game experts have estimated that more than 90 per cent of all the Blue and Snow geese in the world concentrated at Forney's each spring before events deprived the lake of water and its watershed.

What of Forney's future under this plan? It would seem that if the plan works in any degree it will be significant in an area that now offers little recreation. And the project is given a good chance—at least an even chance—of pulling and holding Canada geese, say commission game officials.



# Crows Help Winter Shooting Lull

There comes a time along about now when things get kinda' slow for the gunning members of the sporting brotherhood. Most hunting seasons have passed over the horizon for another year and time weighs heavy on the hands of the fraternity who would still like to get outdoors and do some shooting.

Crow hunting has been the answer for many Iowans who have found the sport a challenge to their shooting ability as well as a help-mate in filling this void in the recreation picture. During these months—the ones between the hunting seasons and early spring fishing—the crow hunter really comes into his own!

Successful crow hunters don't hunt long before they are made aware of the simple truths that some knowledge of the crow and his behavior pattern and a sleeve full of well-devised tricks garnered in hunting him adds to their success.

## Future Hunt

In these paragraphs and the accompanying photo story, we will present hunting methods and tech-

niques involved in crow hunting with the hope that they may add to the success of some future hunt for the reader. If we accomplish this, we will have achieved our purpose.

Locating a place in which to hunt may involve a little bit of time, but it can be done relatively easy and from the warmth of your automobile. Since crows have established flyways they travel each day, locating them simply means traveling the roads in your car until you spot them. Once located, this answers the question of where to hunt: any likely looking spot in draws, along creek or river channels, or conifer groves along the flyway should produce some sporty shooting.

## Roosting Place

Crows gather in open fields before they enter their regular roosting place just before dark. They also leave the roost with the first light of dawn. Many hunters are successful then in searching for big concentration of crows during these times. They observe which way they travel to and from the roost and then plan to make a "set" somewhere along this route.

Some hunters also choose the evening roosting time to hunt but it isn't considered the best method for top sport. The undesirable feature of roost shooting is that it usually means one "burn out" and that's all! Many crow hunters consider this lesser sport than flyway hunting where they have a chance of calling travelers into their set throughout the day.

When it comes to intelligence, the crow has few equals in the world of nature. For this reason, the blind placed in the flyway must be constructed with meticulous care and the better, more painstakingly it is built, the better the hunter's chances will be. Make the blind look as much like natural surroundings as possible, using natural vegetation found in the area. By all means, cover the top of the blind to hide hunters and any movement. When in the blind to hunt, keep movement to a minimum and suppress the urge to look up. Crows will flare from a shining contrasty face as quickly as ducks or geese. Some crow hunters suggest a waiting period after the blind has been placed. This, they believe, gives the birds

a chance to get accustomed to the blind and to continue coming to the area.

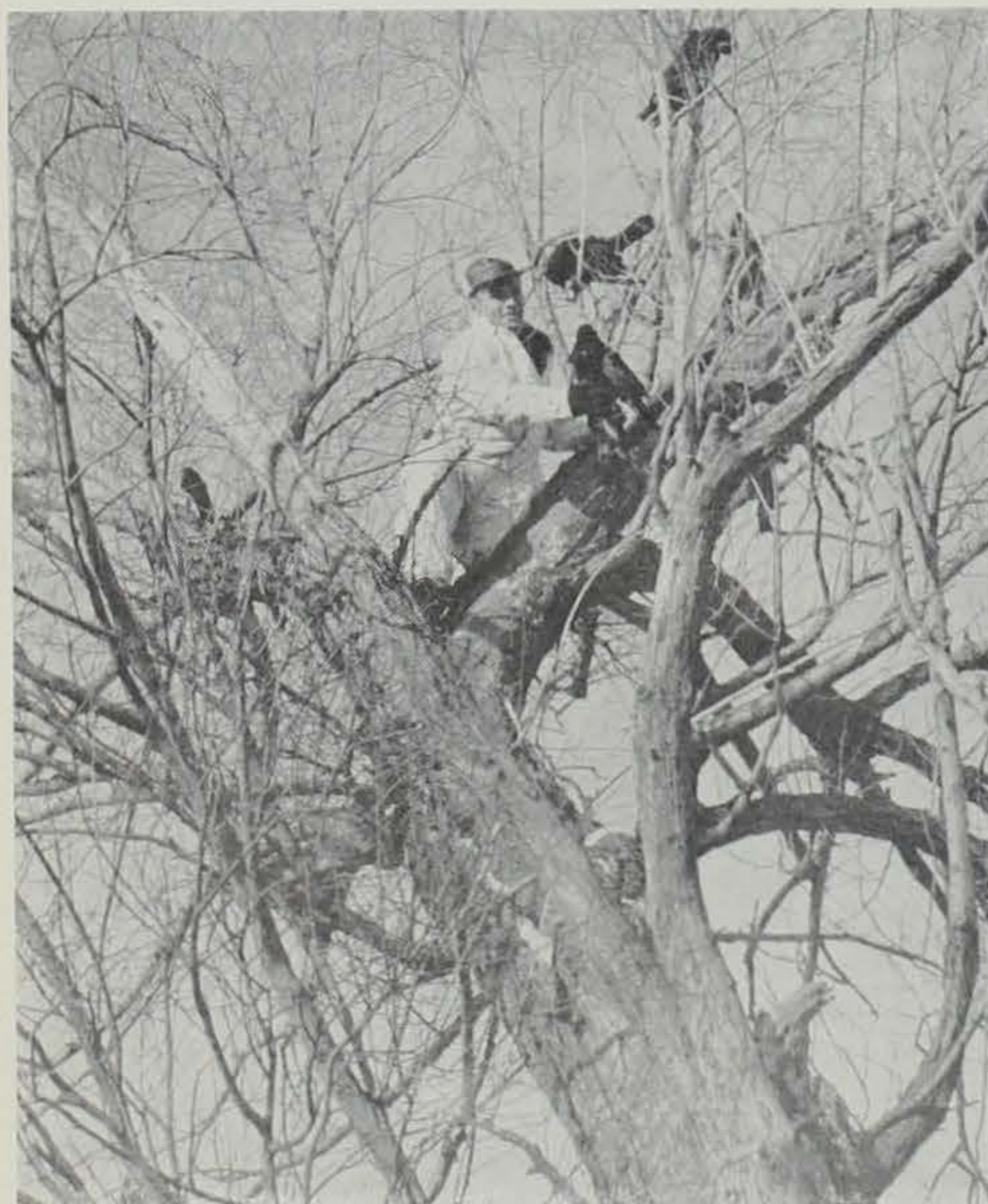
## Crow Calling

Crows come well to natural or artificial decoys and calling. In this respect, crow hunting is similar and has much of the appeal and glamour of duck and goose hunting. But like waterfowl, the more lifelike the decoy set, the more successful it will be.

Many crow hunters use dead crows or cripples to lure others, placing them in trees near their blind or in open areas near the set where they will be easily seen. Snow is ideal for backgrounding decoys placed on the ground. The heads of dead crows may be tied together and the crows then tossed up into trees, eliminating the necessity of climbing the tree to position decoys. A good many, however, prefer to get into the tree where they can place the birds in more realistic fashion.

## Use of Owl

A Great Horned Owl will add much to the decoy set. The owl may be either a live bird or decoy, with the former preferred by most



Select scraggly trees in the flyway to place your crow decoys. If you don't want to make like a monkey in a tree, the crow heads can be tied together and the birds then flung into tree. Boone-Story County Conservation Officer Warren Wilson shows how to place decoys.



Most hunting parties designate one person as the caller for at least a part of the hunt, then trade off. Calling should be done continually when the birds are in sight and frequent "caws" when no crows are present will often bring in a stray or two.



unters. For best results, the owl must be placed in an open area. The spot may be the top of a tree, a nearby fence post or one of the most effective devised.

Crow calling, like duck and goose calling, should be more for the purpose of alerting birds to the decoy set than for any other reason.

If you've never used a crow call, a friend can teach you the fundamentals in a short time. Crow calling is relatively easy once the throaty "growl" imitating the crow's raucous "caw" is mastered. Spending a little time studying the natural calls of crows also will pay dividends when you start shooting them from a blind. When calling from the blind, a good plan is to designate one person as the caller and having that person call continuously when crows are sighted. It's also effective to call frequently even though no crows are present, or appear to be. We say appear to be because crows, like a lot of porting birds, have the habit of being closer than the hunter sometimes thinks. And keep a sharp eye in all directions, for crows also have the irritating habit of slipping in from out of nowhere. When they are worked within gun range, make certain that someone gets that first bird! A downed crow will help bring others milling over your set!

#### Time and Weather

Time of year and weather are factors in crow hunting as they are in most other hunting situations. A big percentage of hunters cleared ground near the set. Many veteran crow hunters tie a live owl down in an open area and surround the bird with dead crows, cripples or decoys. This trick is watch for movement of waterfowl as a guide to the movement of crows, and like to hunt them at these times. Many hunters like to hunt during the nesting season, beginning as early as April, and find them particularly gullible to calling when they have young on the nest. The least bit of calling during the nesting period will bring adult birds scurrying back to their young.

Severe winter weather will have some effect on the crow's behavior and flying. They will be more inclined to use their roost more during the day and to fly at lower altitudes in cold weather. But even with more frequent use of the roost during cold snaps, hunting the roost is more or less a short-lived proposition. And it's pretty disheartening to get a few shots and have the wily crows move out and on. All things considered, the set in a flyway will offer more shooting over a longer period of time.

In summing up, these are per-

haps the most important pointers to keep in mind for top enjoyment from crow hunting:

**Locate a flyway by driving the roads during the day when crows will be flying or during early morning or before dark when they will be moving to or from the roost.**

**Take your time in constructing a blind. Make it as good as you possibly can and use cover that is natural to the area. Provide for a top that can be quickly thrown back or off for fast swinging and shooting. Make as little movement as possible once in the blind and ready to shoot.**

\* \* \* \* \*



WHAM! This one didn't get away!

**Study the area for best placement of decoys. Use scraggly trees and open areas for decoys, either cripples, dead crows or man-made ones. Use a live owl or owl decoy in an open area where it will be easily seen.**

**Call continually from the blind and**

\* \* \* \* \*



A missed shot, but keep calling—you may be able to bring him back!

\* \* \* \* \*

don't be discouraged at an occasional missed shot. Crows can often be called back once or twice after they have been shot at.

**Get the first bird into the setup. This will greatly improve your chances of bringing others in.**

**Gather up and remove all dead crows from the area when the hunt is over. Your farmer friends will appreciate this. You may want to clip the feet or heads and turn them over for bounty, if your county pays such on crows.**

The plume of long feathers on the nape of the neck of the secretary bird stick out severally like a number of quill pens behind a secretary's ear—so there is the explanation of its name.

#### TROUT

Trout lay their eggs in depressions in the gravel or coarse sand of stream beds.



Gather up the crows at the end of the hunt. Your farmer friends will appreciate this gesture and you may want to turn crows in for bounty, if your county offers one. Paul Severson, also of Ames, polices up after a recent hunt.

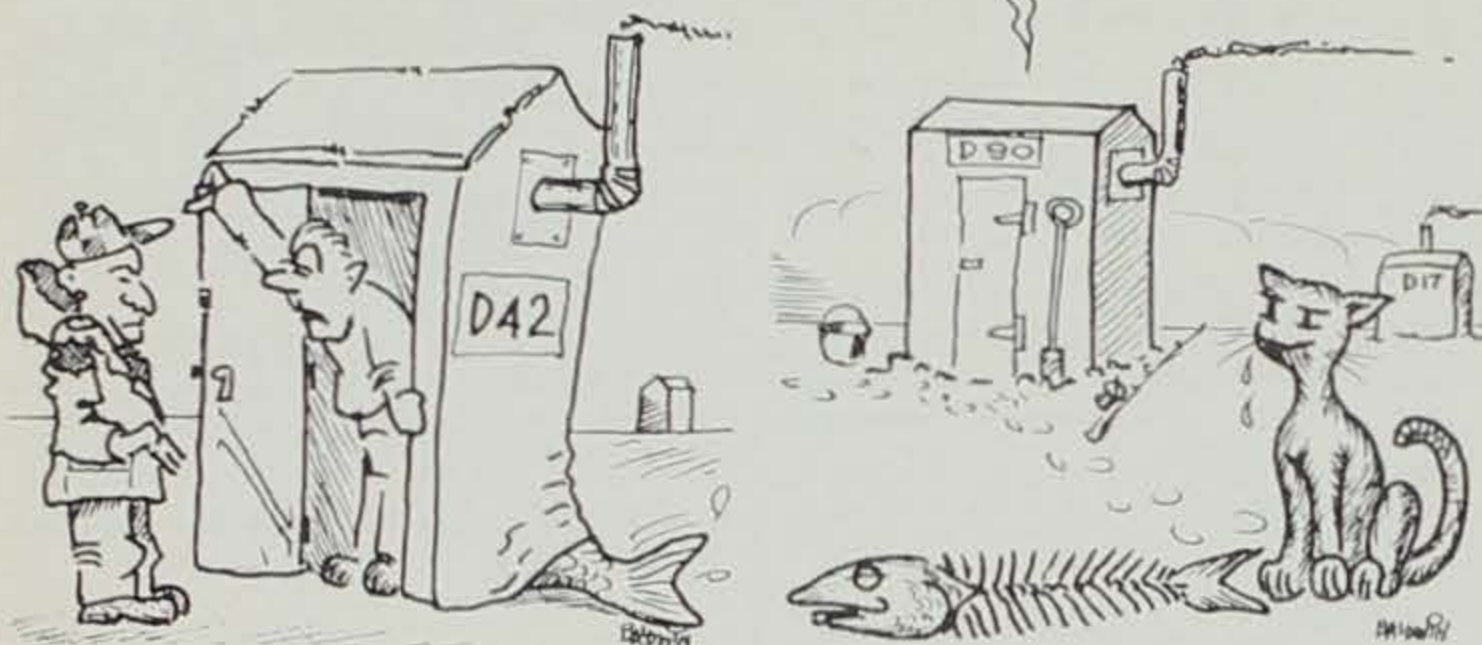


One of the most important things in crow shooting is to get that first bird! This will improve your chances of bringing in more! Jim Hibbs of Ames is the shooter.



"NO SIR, AIN'T WORTH A DARN"

"I'M GONNA HAVE 'IM MOUNTED"



## A Word or Two About Our Jim Baldwin . . .

Jim Baldwin of Spencer is Conservation Officer for Clay and O'Brien Counties. Like a great many of his fellow officers, Baldwin has skills far exceeding those required for a Conservation Officer. Baldwin is a capable cartoonist whose work has been enjoyed by Conservation Commission personnel for a good many years. Because of the wide reputation Baldwin's cartoons have received from fellow employees, the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST would be remiss indeed if it did not share them with our subscribers. We therefore begin publication of "Cartoons by Baldwin" in this issue, and anticipate their publication on a regular basis in future issues of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST.

## Insecticide Use . . .

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lative secondary poisoning of human beings and wildlife, which already exists to some extent, may become catastrophic."

Mr. Baker cited tests conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which reveal that in the second generation of exposure to insecticides in their diet, birds be-

come incapable of reproduction. "When you realize that these poisons may well have similar effect on the human system, it is unthinkable that widespread programs be undertaken in the absence of proof that there is no risk of such result," said Mr. Baker.

"In any case, the burden of proof should rest on the agency

employing the toxic substance, and not on the individual citizen," he said. "This proof should be available for public evaluation long before mass-spraying programs are undertaken. To make such tests concurrently with a chemical spraying operation is obviously highly unsatisfactory, for the damage will have been done by the time tests are complete."

With specific reference to the fire ant program, the Society stated that the chemicals proposed for use are far too lethal for widespread aerial or ground applications. According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, dieldrin, one of the most deadly of modern insecticides, is to be applied at the rate of two pounds per acre. In some areas the dosage may reach four pounds to the acre, the department says.

Tests by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service show that one pound of dieldrin has sufficient toxicity to kill approximately four million quail chicks. The California Department of Fish and Game reports that only 1½ pounds of dieldrin per acre caused the death of pheasants, quail, gophers, snakes, jack rabbits, dogs, chickens, geese and turkeys.

In calling attention to the fact that some, if not most, of the chemicals would be applied by aircraft, the Society stated that experience shows that it is impossible to apply chemicals from the air without some multiple doses and complete misses.

"The National Audubon Society recognizes the seriousness of the fire ant problem," said Mr. Baker. "We can well understand that citizens of the affected states are eager to have this troublesome insect controlled. But we doubt very much that they would be eager to have their countryside doused with these lethal chemicals if they knew the extent to which they, their livestock, and those that consume the crops produced in the area may suffer."

## SQUIRREL'S NAME

The squirrel's name comes from two Greek words—"skia" and "oura." Literally, it means "he who holds his tail over his back to shade himself."

## FROGS

Frogs breathe by swallowing air. They don't have ribs and hence can't breathe by expanding and contracting their chests.

## ANTELOPS

The pronghorn antelope can run fast, from 40 to 60 miles an hour, for three or four miles, then exhaustion occurs rapidly.

The color of the walleye pike is a brassy olive-buff, sometimes shading to yellowish sides and white beneath. There are no distinct dark bars of mottlings on the sides, but rather an overall mottling of black or brown.

## THIS CHRISTMAS GIFT BACKFIRED!

Some of the ways in which sportsmen maneuver their "better halves" in order to wrangle fishing and hunting equipment for Christmas are amusing.

One that we have heard since Christmas was particularly amusing because of a new "wrinkle" that we had never heard before and that we thought was pretty clever.

According to our informer, a sneaky-type fellow each Christmas for several years had bestowed upon the "little woman" many and sundry angling items. The wife, like some, had not fished in her life. She had about as much need for fishing gear as a Sputnik in her kitchen! Of course, this was part of the donor's skillful calculations, for he promptly and unceremoniously appropriated the fishing items for his own use.

An angling friend who was well acquainted with the situation approached our nimrod just before Christmas this year:

"What are you giving your wife for Christmas?" he inquired.

"Oh, you should see it! I'm giving her a five-horse outboard motor," was the ecstatic response.

Later in the day, the fishing buddy was telling his wife about his angler friend with the "cute" method of getting fishing gear he wanted.

"I saw Charlie today," he announced. "Guess what he's giving his wife for Christmas?"

"What?" the wife asked.

"A five-horse motor," said hubby.

"That so. Well, you know what Charlie's wife is giving him?" the wife asked slyly.

"What?" the man of the house asked.

"A new automatic washer and dryer," was the wife's matter-of-fact reply.

## BIGHORNS

Bighorn sheep can lie in the snow for hours and stay warm. Their winter coat of matted hair doesn't let enough body heat escape to melt a single snowflake.

Artificial flies used in fishing are best played on the surface with an up and back rod movement and under the surface with an up and sideward motion.

One of the outstanding characteristics of the brook trout is the vivid white markings on the front edges of the lower fins.

Beavers usually cut their winter food supply before winter sets in. An early cutting indicates an early winter.

The food of chipmunks include nuts, fruits, berries, seeds, soft part of plants, mushrooms and many insects.



Harold Farmer of New Sharon took this 180-pound buck November 19 in Mahaska county, using a 49-pound bow and razor-type broadhead. Farmer got the buck at about 40 yards and reports the arrow went completely through the animal at this distance.





Trout fishing in winter is cold sport but warm protection for feet helps the situation. Heep-lined slip-ons inside boots is one of the most effective insulators against the cold.

## Trout . . .

Continued from page 9

logical question: why? Why does the trout fisherman put up with such adversity for the sake of fishing? The answer is at least three-fold: a large and enduring fondness for the sport, regardless of the season; fast action that frequently comes his way; and the ever-present possibility of "nailing" that hefty lunger that has escaped the net in previous outings, or one of the brood fish stocked as part of the cooperative Conservation Commission-U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service program that is underway throughout the all and winter months.

The thought of taking one of these "bonus babies" is enough to dispel all thoughts of numbing cold, frozen rod guides and tingling feet from the mind forever!

The point that winter trout fishing sometimes offers fast action may be illustrated by a recent experience of the writer. The setting was the upper reaches of Trout River in Winneshiek County. My fishing companion and I had joined up near a likely looking pool at the foot of a fast run. The stream, at the juncture of fast water and quiet pool, turned abruptly, carrying fast water along the far side of the stream for some distance. Undercuts along the bank and the fast water made the spot look particularly "trouty."

"Try it up next to the bank and let your bait drift along the run," my partner suggested.

I tried a cast or two without success. My partner watched with interest for the first few casts, then moved on. I kept casting into the spot. It simply looked too good to pass up until I was convinced I had worked it thoroughly.

A cast or two later brought a sharp strike and a nice 10-inch rainbow to the net. Heartened by his turn of events, I fished it while longer, but without success. A little begrudgingly, I moved on to greener pastures.

Moving upstream I spotted my fishing companion at a deep, quiet pool below a cascading run. The sight of him almost made me chuckle aloud for here he was, draped over the trunk of a tree that had fallen across the pool, his flyrod held aloft and his face peering into the pool on the upstream side of the tree trunk.

My first thought was that he was hung up on the trunk, but he quickly dispelled this thought. As I approached along the opposite bank, he turned his face in my direction and asked:

"Would you please take your net and help me land this fish from your side?"

I was close enough now to see the silvery flashes of the fighting trout in the pool. I waded in and lowered my net as my partner kept pressure on the fish. A few seconds later we worked the fish into the net. Another fine 10-inch rainbow!

"What a riot that guy was! I tossed a salmon egg into this spot and *wham*—the first cast!" my companion said, his face aglow.

"That, in a nutshell, pretty much describes the kind of action you can get from trout," I informed him. He nodded approval.

While this experience held our interest momentarily, it was less important than some other observations that were committed to mental and written notes that day concerning trout fishing in winter. In doing so, the writer had the would-be winter trout fisherman in mind and the questions he might want answered about the sport.

What about the cold, and are there ways and tricks that will add to personal comfort? What about stream conditions? What about fishing equipment and methods, lures and baits. What about stocking of brood trout? We'll attempt to answer these in the next paragraphs.

About winter weather, dress as warmly as you possibly can for the sake of your personal comfort

while fishing, and as a precaution in avoiding a doctor's bill later. This means insulated, wool or wool-cotton layer "longies," insulated pacs, waders or boots or insulated socks or several layers of warm socks if your footwear is not insulated. Even with this protection, your feet will chill after standing in snow for longer periods. This should give you a clue about what things would be like without extra protection.

A parka or insulated jacket with the hood thrown up over your head will do much to protect you against cold air and wind.

Gloves to most are more bothersome than they are worth, mostly because they are off most of the time—tying leader material, baiting the hook, freeing hang-ups, or for any number of other reasons. Some anglers help the situation by wearing one glove on the hand holding the fishing rod while warming the other in a jacket pocket, then switching when the exposed hand gets cold.

Almost a "must" item is a rag or towel with which to dry hands after cleaning fish or handling your catch or bait. You'll find your hands will stay warmer if you keep them dry at all times.

A good hand warmer or two will add to your comfort and so will a vacuum of hot coffee. As most sportsmen have discovered, there are few things more appreciated by numbed fingers and hands than to drape them around a plastic cup filled with steaming coffee.

But even with protective clothing and cold weather aids, the old car heater will feel good after a stint in the open. Face it—Iowa winter weather is like that!

Because of their rapid run-off and gradation, a number of Iowa's trout streams are open from one end to the other throughout the winter. Waterloo and French Creeks in Allamakee County; North and South Bear, Trout River and Trout Run, in Winneshiek; Richmond Springs and Elk Creek in Delaware, were open as of mid-January and had received stockings of brood trout by that date.

Other streams, while they may not be open entirely, may have open stretches that can be fished.

Sportsmen and others in the area you plan to fish are excellent sources of information regarding the streams and for best directions and roads to follow in reaching them.

Trout water in winter is crystal clear. For this reason extra caution must be the angler's watchword in fishing them successfully. Whether the choice is natural bait or artificial on the flyrod, a leader six feet or longer with small diameter tippet (1-1½ pound test, some prefer heavier around snags and heavy vegetation) will probably work best for you. If the choice is spinning gear, you're in good shape to reach out and work

the long shallow pools for fish the flyrod angler would probably not get close to. This is particularly true at this time of year when clear streams makes it just that much easier for fish to spot the approaching angler. Spinning tackle also has in its favor the ability to cast larger lures with less disturbance and this improves the fisherman's chances.

Worms, salmon eggs, minnows and small flyrod lures on the flyrod, and large spoons and spinners—either silver or gold—are the spinning anglers' favorites. All have been successful this year.

If you are a natural bait fisherman, fish the spots where fast water rushes into quiet pools, in the pools, along undercuts of banks, and in and around pockets near rocks and open areas in watercress and other cover. As you read the stream, ask yourself the question: If I were a trout, where would I lie and wait for food coming down the stream pushed along by the natural currents in the stream? What is the pattern of currents in this particular stretch of stream and where, because of them, would I most likely get a three-square meal with least trouble? The trout angler who finds the answer to these questions usually puts more fish in his creel!

For the spinning clan, we have presented one tip that is effective—that of working long, shallow pools or runs with large spinners or spoons in either silver or gold finish.

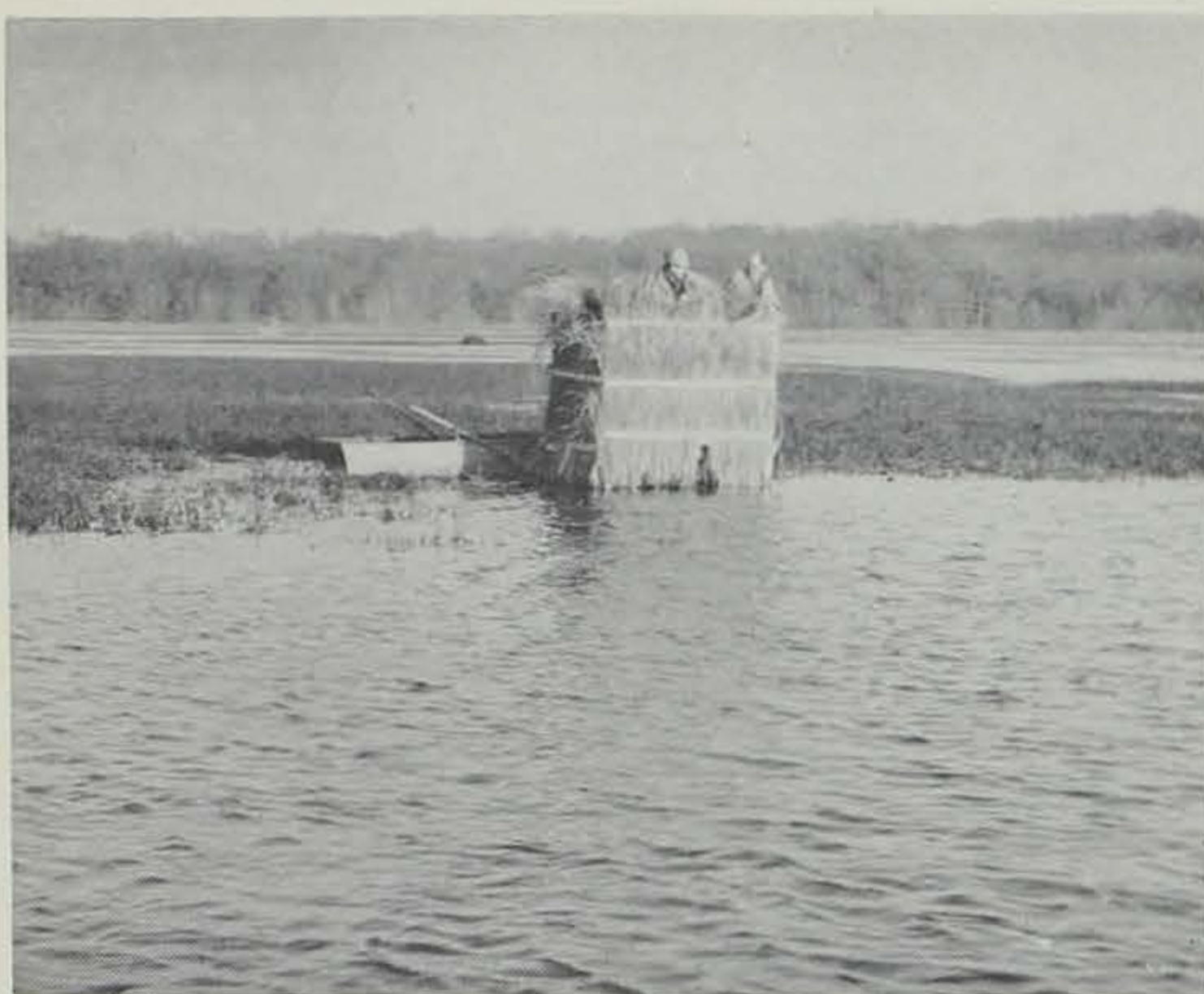
Another effective method, says Conservation Officer Bob Daubendiek, is to rig with the type of spoons that are thick and heavy—the kind that have built quite a success record in the fast trout rivers of the western states.

Daubendiek, who is assigned to Winneshiek and Howard Counties, says this type of lure is worked most successfully if allowed to sink and rest on the bottom, then by moving it slightly with upward action of the rod tip before allowing it to settle and rest again on the stream bottom. Keep this action going for the entire length of the pool or run, Daubendiek suggests.

This type of lure is better than the usual product we see in this section of the country because it has the necessary weight to keep it down. It also can be moved more nearly straight up and down rather than at a drastic angle that does little but cover distance and brings the lure too close to the surface for the best fish-getting action, Daubendiek advises.

A continuous open season on trout has meant the addition of this sport to Iowa's winter fishing picture. A winter trout trip is worth setting your sights on! So maybe winter weather isn't exactly a picnic—there is still something about "Little Switzerland" as she slumbers under her winter blanket and her trout that makes all else seem unimportant!





Brown's Slough hunters took more ducks and were required to spend less hunting hours to do it than on the Colyn Area, a recap of hunter success on the two areas shows. The study completes the first in Conservation Commission history in which two nearly similar duck marshes were compared.

## Brown's Slough . . .

Continued from page 9

Waterfowl Hunting Project" prepared by William Aspelmeier, Unit Game Manager for the State Conservation Commission. The summary appears in the *Quarterly Progress Report on Fish and Wildlife Habitat Development* prepared for Commission members and officials.

Because of the uniqueness of the experiment in Iowa, a review of the way in which the project was conducted would seem in order.

In the interest of learning techniques and methods of managing state-owned marshes where heavy hunting pressure is a problem, the State Conservation Commission last fall selected Browns Slough and Colyn Area in Lucas County for the study. Selection of these two marshes was considered ideal. Both were nearly identical in size—210-acre Browns Slough compared to Colyn Area with a 200-acre water area. Other features were favorable for the experiment; both were in the same Chariton River watershed; they were situated but three miles apart, and the same type of agricultural lands surrounded both.

On Browns Slough, 18 three-man blinds were constructed and spaced so that each was situated in an estimated five to ten acres of shooting territory. No persons, except management personnel and the hunters occupying blinds were allowed on the area. Hunting was from the blinds only, except in retrieving cripples. Upland game hunters were restricted to the upland portion of the area.

Assignment of blinds was determined by a drawing an hour before legal shooting time each day. An administrative charge of \$1 was made and at the time a blind was assigned, a permit was issued to the hunting party. An

information card containing the name, address, age, occupation, and hunting license number of each member of the party, was kept in the headquarters building. At the end of the hunt, the party turned in the permit at which time the hours hunted, and species killed by age and sex was recorded. Hunters also were asked to comment on the controlled shooting offered at Browns Slough.

On the Colyn Area, a check-in building was maintained but no special restrictions were made concerning the number of hunters or where they hunted. Hunters checked in at the end of their hunt, at which time their kill and hours hunted were recorded. Name, address, age, occupational license number also was recorded.

From the data obtained from hunter report cards, Aspelmeier prepared five tabulations for inclusion in the summary report. The tabulations compare hunter age, hunter occupations, miles traveled by the hunter, number of times hunters returned to the controlled area, weekly harvest totals at both areas, use and success of each blind on the controlled area, and a graph showing hunting success each week during the duck season.

While the most significant information has been pointed out, other figures and percentages are of interest. The age group 26-35 was most in evidence on both areas, comprising 39 per cent of the total on the Colyn Area and 38 per cent of the total on Browns Slough. Eight per cent were 51 or over on both areas, while hunters 18 and under comprised 19 per cent of the total on Colyn and 11 per cent on Browns Slough.

Skilled laborers led all other occupational classes, comprising 23 per cent on the Colyn Area and 33 per cent at Browns Slough.

One per cent of the hunters on both areas were women.

A total of 451 or 61 per cent of the total number of hunters on the Colyn Area drove from 51-100 miles to reach the area, while 444 or 73 per cent of Browns Slough hunters drove the same distance. Four per cent of the hunters on both areas drove 101 miles or more to hunt.

At Browns Slough, 98 hunters came to the area once; 56 returned a second time; 34 traveled to the area three times. One hunter made 10 trips; one made 11; another made 12, and one threw superstition out the window and hunted the area 13 times.

Blinds 2 and 7 required less hunter-hours-per-bird with totals of 2.5 and 2.7, respectively. Blind 18 had the greatest harvest with 79 birds. Blinds 9 and 15 were close behind with 66 and 64, respectively.

Highest success at Browns Slough was recorded during the weeks of November 9-15 and November 30-December 6. Top week on the Colyn Area was the week of November 23-29.

Aspelmeier hastens to point out that the general hunting picture on both Browns Slough and the Colyn Area was below previous years. Unharvested corn in the area was a big factor and ducks quickly flew on after short rest stops on the Colyn Area refuge. Aspelmeier has estimated the top duck concentration on the Colyn refuge during the 1957 season at about 15,000—a pretty scant number compared to the 40 to 50,000 mallards that have used the refuge in recent areas.

## Wardens Tales

Rex Emerson, Conservation Officer in Cass and Audubon Counties, spins a tale about his neighboring officer, Ward Garrett of Pottawattamie County where, apparently, some mighty strange sights are witnessed on cold winter nights.

Garrett, Emerson reports, was on night rabbit patrol in Pottawattamie County recently. This was a January night—cold as everything with six inches of snow on the ground.

About half a mile from a house, Garrett was jerked up short by a sight that must have made him blink and look a second time. Maybe even a third or fourth!

Down the road ahead of Garrett went a man with—of all things—a power lawn mower!

Garrett overtook the fellow a little later and asked:

"Well, fella! Is the grass getting too tall or did your wife take the car and you have to drive the lawn mower?"

Neither, the man told Garrett,

## WHERE TO FISH? CHECK LINE FIRST!

The benefits the angler receives from data gathered and assembled by creel census personnel is well established. But, as one party of Iowa fishermen discovered recently, the data is sometimes closer at hand than he thinks!

The story is currently being told about a party of fishermen who were busily engaged at the sport recently in the Mississippi River near Harpers Ferry in northeast Iowa.

Soon after the group started fishing, Tom Molamphy of Winfield, a creel census-taker for the State Conservation Commission, arrived on the scene to check on the party's luck.

In the normal course of his work, Molamphy gathered information from the anglers regarding the amount of time they had spent fishing, the number and kinds of fish taken, etc. During his censusing, the tenor of conversation got around to the perfectly fair question of the whys and wherefors of creel census—what is it? and what does it accomplish?

Molamphy met each question head-on, explaining how the data is gathered and recorded on each species and area and how this information gives biologists and fisheries personnel some insight into the feeding habits, movements, size and growth rates of fish. Most important, Molamphy explained, is that this assembled data is helpful in telling anglers how to get the most out of their fishing recreation during current and future fishing seasons.

Completely satisfied that this should improve the angler's luck, one of the fishermen bent Molamphy's ear in a confidential way:

"On the basis of this creel census work, where should we fish to have the best luck?, he asked in his heart-to-heart manner.

"Well, first of all, I'd pull in my line!" Molamphy suggested.

The angler complied, reeling in a scrappy 9-inch bluegill, much to the chiding of his amused fishing companions.

Hybridization, the crossing of two species to produce an intermediate form, is known to occur in trouts, suckers, minnows and sunfishes.

explaining that he was going to use the mower to pump water!

With this information Garrett drove on.

Now we have no way of knowing what Ward might have been thinking as he left the scene. We can only speculate that it might have been with "tongue-in-cheek" and with a word or two mumbled under the breath. Words like: "Of course! Perfectly logical! What other reason would a guy have for herding a power mower about on a cold January night?"